

THE EDITOR

THE first year of the new century promises to mark an era in the history of the nursing profession.

We look back to the Nursing Congress held in Chicago in 1893 as having given the impetus from which our organizations have developed. The "Superintendents' Society" was the direct outcome of that meeting, then followed the local *alumnæ* associations, and finally the national "Associated *Alumnæ* of Trained Nurses," while the suggestion which has resulted in the establishment of the course in "Hospital Economics" was also made at that time.

Previous to that time each training-school had worked independently of every other and each individual nurse had, as it were, stood alone, her attitude towards graduates of other schools being one of antagonism rather than friendliness. To-day our leading schools are conducted on practically a uniform standard, the nurses throughout the country have for each other strong professional sympathy, and our societies are sufficiently well organized for us to become a part of that great army of women who are striving for ethical progress.

It has seemed fitting to wait until the beginning of the year to make mention of the many promises of growth offered by the movements that we, as a profession, are making towards still higher organization and greater unity.

The cordial and hopeful feelings with which we have regarded all these movements have been restrained until now, when the unfolding of our plans has reached the first stage of definite accomplishment. The affiliation of our two national societies, now agreed on and only needing a final step of technicality to complete it, means that we have definitely and openly allied ourselves in our own country with the "National Council of Women" (a body so well described, we think, by the auxiliary title of the National Council in England,—viz., "The National Union of Women Workers"), gaining at one stroke an enormously larger platform on which to present our questions, with equally larger audiences before whom to make our needs and wishes known. In return, we must stand ready to give freely of our special

gifts, of work, and of service, and to do our part in whatever may be useful for the general welfare.

IN assisting in the formation and building up of an "International Council of Nurses" we have an important place to fill. As American women, we have only to consider the harmony and co-operation of our own members in order to take what action we please, while in other countries there are political and social conditions which preclude nurses from independent organized effort. Our greater personal freedom in a way imposes upon us broader responsibilities in an affiliation of this kind. We shall be brought into world-wide communication with our fellow-nurses, and from letters received already from abroad we realize that nurses in other countries are watching our movements, not only with interest, but with the hope of being able to follow in our footsteps.

The meeting of the "International Council of Nurses," which will be a part of the Nursing Congress to be held in Buffalo in September, will give us the opportunity of welcoming and entertaining nurses from many lands. It will be an event of rare pleasure, and an occasion for the extension of our most cordial hospitality.

This second congress will be a deeply interesting occasion for judging it by the first one held in Chicago. It will prove an impetus for rapid development in the future of the various lines of work which have been commenced during these less than eight years of organized effort. Such a congress means an immense amount of hard labor for many people. The "Buffalo Nurses' Club" is taking the initiative, and the "Superintendents' Society," the "Associated Alumnae," and the American members of the "International Council of Nurses" are co-operating with them to make the occasion one of interest and success.

THE movement towards State organization in New York is of the most vital importance to the profession at large. This is an effort to establish a recognized status of education for the trained nurse of the future. The nurses of New York State, who are taking the initiatory steps for this end, will be an example, not only to other States, but to nurses in other countries, and their work should be done slowly and carefully, with the greatest forethought and self-control. It is a subject that concerns every trained nurse resident in the State, man or woman, who holds a diploma from a reputable training-school in any part of the world. The committee which is making the preliminary plans for a general meeting has been canvassing the State, and will undoubtedly issue a general call for a meeting to be held in Albany during the

winter, so that the result of its first effort will be known when the Congress of Nurses takes place in Buffalo.

DR. MCGEE's letter to the Surgeon-General, resigning her position as acting assistant surgeon, U. S. A., in charge of the Army Nurse Corps, is given in the "Miscellany," with the Surgeon-General's reply.

The spirit of American patriotism which carried Dr. McGee into the work, and prompted her to give four months of hard, gratuitous service to the government at a time of great national calamity, will make her name live in history.

The appointment of Mrs. Dita H. Kinney to succeed Dr. McGee in charge of the Army Nurse Corps was confirmed by the Secretary of War on November 30. Mrs. Kinney is a graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training-School, of 1892. She is a woman of ability and experience in both civil and military hospitals, and the selection seems most judicious.

The position of acting assistant surgeon, created for Dr. McGee, will be abolished, and just what honors will go with the position in the future remains to be seen.

WHAT seems to us by far the most progressive recognition yet accorded trained nurses is contained in Miss Honnor Morten's very interesting account of the work of the nurse in the London schools. Political and official appreciation of such service stands back of the movement, giving a double significance to the work. We congratulate Miss Morten on what she has accomplished for the London child and the profession.

WE hope the little paper entitled "The Small Hospital and the Training-School" will call out some practical suggestions from our readers. It is a subject that has been much discussed, but no really satisfactory solution of the problem has yet been reached.

THE letter signed "X. Y. Z.," asking how a nurse can disinfect herself and her belongings in a boarding-house room, should bring out much valuable information from nurses in private practice who can speak from actual experience.

We hope to arrange for papers on disinfection from the institutional, municipal, and domestic stand-point, to appear later in the year, but the answer to this letter can only come from the women who are frequently called upon to meet a similar situation.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL SHIP MAINE

